March 12, 1976

that you see before you is just a beginning. I am trying to do is to alert you. If the majority wants to proceed, fine. But, in fairness to the introducers of the bill, I do pose these questions that I think that they ought to have a chance to answer. First of all we have not been chincy in this area, seconcly when you talk about opening diagnosis as a payment on a part of the state you are opening the door, broadly. As far as I am concerned I think that the school districts ought to stand the expenses in this area. They are not, according to my understanding, of this particular legislation. In the other case, and I back up what I think that Senator Barnett said a few minutes ago. It is absolutely inexcusable on the part of parents of those students who are involved in transportation to try and take advantage of the law and double up on payments. I have been told about some of the payments that would shock you, if you hear some of the figures that are thrown to us, 71¢ a mile as an example. Now, rather than broadening this area of transportation, I think that we ought to clear it up so that we know exactly where we are and if those people who are trying to take advantage of the tax payers, and the state generally con-tinue to violate this area of transportation, they ought to be treated in the same way as anyone else who violates the law of this particular state. I say in conclusion, 761 may start out at this fiscal note, but I would suggest to you that it would be far better at this time if we held where we were and try to back up what we said in 403 instead of broadening the language so we are not sure once again where we really stand. This state has done an excellent job in this area. We have no reason to be under constant criticism, and you know who we are being criticised by at the moment. Therefore, I first of all challenge the introducers of the bill to show us that they are not opening up the language, and secondly I urgently suggest that the members of this legislature take a second look at the language before you proceed.

PRESIDENT: Senator F. Lewis.

SENATO F. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I am happy to respond to that. First of all I think that we need to get an understanding. I think that we need to get an understanding what is necessary in terms of a special education program. The Legislature came up and they said "You are going to provide education for each of these children, in a program". Now, you identify them. You identify them. Now how do you identify them? Do you do it at random, by numbers, by lot, somebody has got to pay to have them identified. Now, if Senator Marvel believes that the cost is too high and some of the rest of you, instead of passing that on to the local tax payers let pick up literally hundreds of thousands of dollars with initial diagnosis, which was absolutely necessary because that was the criticism that the local school district received. The selection process. We made it clear that we wanted the diagnosis to be done by someone who was certified, licensed, and a